

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 01697 251554Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 079886

R 251529Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1375

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, LI

SUBJECT: NEW SEDITION LAW IN LIBERIA

1. ON OR ABOUT MARCH 7, LIBERIAN LEGISLATURE PASSED NEW SEDITION ACT WHICH REDEFINES OLD MEANING OF TERM AND PROVIDES HEAVY PENALTIES FOR ANYONE WHO QTE PRACTICES SECTIONALISM, TRIBALISM OR PAROCHIALISM WITH THE INTENT TO INCITE AND DIVIDE THE NATION AND BRING ABOUT DISUNITY AMONG THE LIBERIAN PEOPLE UNQTE. NEW LAW, THROUGH ITS REPEATED REFERENCES TO TRIBAL AREAS AND PEOPLES, APPEARS TO BE RETROGRESSIVE ACT HARKING BACK TO DAYS PRIOR TO TUBMAN'S UNIFICATION POLICY.

2. ON MARCH 19 RUFUS DARPOH, ASSISTANT EDITOR OF LIBERIAN STAR, (NOMINALLY INDEPENDENT BUT VERY PRUDENT), PUBLISHED LONG STORY QTE PULLING THE RUG UNQTE. DARPOH CAREFULLY BUT WITH GOOD INSIGHTS AND CONSIDERABLE COURAGE CRITICIZED THE BILL AND ASKED SOME HIGHLY PERTINENT QUESTIONS. FRIDAY, MARCH 22, STAR APPEARED WITH LONG, BOXED FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL PRAISING BILL, CONDEMNING CRITICS OF GOVERNMENT AND LAUDING TOLBERT IN MOST FULSOME WAY. LAST PAGE OF SAME ISSUED CARRIED REPORT OF REORGANIZATION OF STAR STAFF. DARPOH WAS NOT MENTIONED AND THERE WAS IMPLICATION HE HAD BEEN INCLUDED OUT.

3. BILL AND SUBSEQUENT PRESS TREATMENT HAS CREATED CONSIDERABLE STIR HERE. DARPOH TOLD USIS HE HAD RECEIVED MANY CON-

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONROV 01697 251554Z

GRATULATORY PHONE CALLS AND COMMENTS. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD

NOT BEEN FIRED BUT DEMOTED TO NEWS EDITOR. HE CLAIMS ACTION WAS TAKEN BY STAR MANAGEMENT AND NOT AS RESULT GOL DEMARCHE, ALTHOUGH WE INCLINED TO RESERVE JUDGMENT ON THIS ONE. STAR OWNER JAMES DENNIS IS BROTHER TO FONMIN DENNIS AND VERY CLOSE TO HIGH GOVERNMENT CIRCLES. WHATEVER CASE, CRAVEN ACT ON PART OF STAR MANAGEMENT CAN ONLY REFLECT FURTHER ADVERSELY ON ALREADY PASSIVE LIBERIAN PRESS.

4. BASICALLY, PEOPLE SAYING IF GOL NEEDS SUCH BILL, THEY MUST BE AFRAID OF SOMETHING. BUT WHAT? AIRGRAM AND MEMCON FOLLOW.
MANFULL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS COMMENTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MONROV01697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740063-0962
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740318/aaaaaqmp.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 AUG 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW SEDITION LAW IN LIBERIA
TAGS: PGOV, LI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005